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## SUNUNU STATEMENT ON CLOSE OF FORMAL COMBAT PHASE OF WAR IN IRAQ

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WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator John Sununu (R-NH) issued the following statement regarding the close of the combat phase of the war in Iraq:

"The conclusion of this combat phase is a chance for all Americans to reflect on the extraordinary job done by the men and women serving in Iraq. It is also a time to remember and think about those families who won't be welcoming their loved ones home because they have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"It is the end of the formal combat phase, but there's a lot more work to be done. The Iraqi people have been given a wonderful gift – an opportunity for representational government and for freedom. This opportunity needs to be taken advantage of quickly through reconstruction, the organization of an interim government, and by making sure that the rights of all Iraqis - ethnic groups and religious groups included - are respected by the new government."